

Notes and Quotes - Discernment in the Dark

Discernment is the capacity in the changing circumstance of daily life to distinguish between humanizing / life-giving paths and dehumanizing / destructive paths - David Lonsdale

If we cannot choose well, we cannot live well - Gordon Smith

Essential Elements In Discerning Well

Openness/Humility

Knowledge / Understanding Of the Bible

Inner Testimony of the Spirit

Community

Reason

Christian Tradition and Doctrines

Mark 4:35-41 - ³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A **furious squall** came up, and the **waves broke over** the boat, so that it was **nearly swamped**. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we **drown**?"

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so **afraid**? Do you still have **no faith**?"

⁴¹ They were **terrified** and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

We are determined to keep ourselves safe in an unsafe world. – Crabb

Is 50 – ¹⁰ Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. ¹¹ But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment.

We're a community of fixers. We can't stand to see a problem we can't do something about. We're not curious about the journey. We're committed to making things better, to feeling more comfortable, to learning communication skills that will improve our relationships and will make them more satisfying, to relieving the pain with empathy. – Larry Crabb

In **every** good choice, as far as it depends on us, our intention must be simple. I must consider only the end for which I am created, that is, for the praise of God our Lord and for the salvation of my soul. - St. Ignatius of Loyola